

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SPM-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OIC-04 PC-10

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TAGS: ECA, SPOP

SUBJECT: ECA REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR WORLD POPULATION
CONFERENCE

FROM ALLEN

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND EVALUATIONS OBTAINED FROM TALKS WITH
NIGERIAN DELEGATE OLOMAJEYE, CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR, D.K. GHANSAH OF
ECA POPULATION CENTER WHO SERVED AS ORGANIZER AND PRINCIPAL
SECRETARY PLUS OTHER SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS:

2. MEETING DEMONSTRATED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN
AFRICAN APPROACH TO AND UNDERSTANDING OF POPULATION PROBLEMS.
OVERCOMING UNCERTAINTY OF FIRST DAY, DELEGATES ENGAGED IN
OPEN AND USEFUL EXCHANGES WITH OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES BUT
NOTABLE ABSENCE OF RANCOR. SUCH MEETING COULD NOT EVEN HAVE
BEEN HELD THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO AND THIS SHOWS AFRICAN
GOVERNMENTS BEGINNING GRASP SIGNIFICANCE POPULATION
FACTORS IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT. DELS CAME TO SEE
POPULATION PROBLEM IN WIDER PERSPECTIVE, LEADING ONE TO OBSERVE
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THAT QUOTE AT LAST WE'VE GOTTEN AWAY FROM NAKED PEDDLING OF

BIRTH CONTROL. UNQUOTE.

3. DECISION TO CLOSE WORKING SESSIONS TO NONMEMBERS TAKEN BY CONSENSUS. MANY (INTER ALIA NIGERIA) FELT US AND ROMANIA SHOULD BE PRESENT, BUT DECIDED NOT TO PRESS IN ORDER MAINTAIN HARMONY. SECRETARIAT RELIEVED AT ASSURANCE US INTEREST AND DESIRE TO HELP UNAFFECTED BY DECISION.

4. FINAL TEXT OF REPORT (STILL UNAVAILABLE TO DELS ON DEPARTURE) DIFFERS VIRTUALLY NOT AT ALL FROM DRAFT AS REPORTED. OFFENDING SENTENCE THAT SOLUTION DOES NOT LIE "IF AT ALL" IN FERTILITY CONTROL REPORTEDLY REMOVED. A MAJOR POINT IS GENERAL, IF IMPLICIT, ENDORSEMENT OF W.P.P.A. ECA SECRETARIAT COMPILATION OF RECENT, RELATED ECA ACTIONS IN GENERAL FIELD HELPED CONVINCE DELS THAT UN DRAFT NOT AT VARIANCE WITH AFRICAN THINKING.

5. LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY GHANA, LESOTHO, MADAGASCAR, NIGERIA AND SENEGAL AND TO LESSER EXTENT BY LIBYA. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ETHIOPIA AND GABON WERE VOLCAL CRITICS BUT GHANSAH ASSURES ETHIOPIAN DEL NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS TIME OF TRANSITION.

6. GHANSAH REPORTS ECA AND OAU WORKING HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER THIS AREA. THEY WILL JOINTLY PLAN PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING OF AFRICAN DELS AT BUCHAREST (AND SEEK TO GUIDE IT). AFTER CONFERENCE, ECA PLANS CONVENE MEETING AFRICAN EXPERTS TO DRAFT PLANS FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION W.P.P.A. TO PRESENT TO ECA CONFERENCE EARLY 1975.

7. NIGERIAN REP AND GHANSAH GIVEN COPIES OF US DRAFT AND BOTH REACTED VERY FAVORABLY, PARTICULARLY TO CONCEPT IN PART II OF SYNTHESIZING PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN EASILY UNDERSTOOD LANGUAGE. GHANSAH OFFERED SEEK OBTAIN AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR HIS IDEA OF SHORTENED FORM. COPY US DRAFT ALSO SENT TO ECA/SYG GARDINER WITH EXPLANATORY MEMO.
SMITH

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